

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02

L-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 /038 W

----- 018408

R 190655Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5710

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T PORT LOUIS 0155

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UNSC WA MP SF AO

SUBJECT: MAURITIAN UN PERM REP

REF: STATE 37479, 75 PORT LOUIS 843, USUN 0349

1. IN MY OPINION ANY SPECIFIC REQUEST BY US TO GOM TO GET RID OF RAMPHUL IS MOST LIKELY TO BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE BOTH IN TERMS OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS AND OUR FUTURE PROSPECTS OF INFLUENCING RAMGOOLAM ON IMPORTANT UN ISSUES. ANY SUCH DIRECT UNDISGUISED PRESSURE ON RAMGOOLAM BY US MIGHT WELL LEAD HIM TO QUOTE THE SECRETARY'S RIPOSTE TO THE OAU WHEN IT CHALLENGED THE DAVIS APPOINTMENT AS AF ASSISTANT SECRETARY, PARTICULARLY THE POINT ABOUT INTERFERENCE IN OUR INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

2. I COULD NOT AGREE MORE THAT RAMPGUL IS AN AMBITIOUS, EGOTISTICAL TWO-FACED TROUBLE MAKER AND HIS DEPARTURE FROM THE NEW YORK SCENE SHOULD BE BENEFICIAL FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW. I HAVE RECENTLY BEEN TOLD BY A KEY MAURITIAN DIPLOMAT THAT I HAD HAD MORE EFFECT ON RAMGOOLAM ON THE KOREAN ISSUE LAST FALL THAN RAMGOOLAM HAD LET ON TO ME: AS RESULT OF MY FINAL EFFORT HERE ON THAT QUESTION RAMGOOLAM HAD ACTUALLY SENT LAST MINUTE INSTRUCTIONS TO RAMPHUL TO VOTE AGAINST

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THE UNFRIENDLY RESOLUTION AND THUS HIS VOTE TO ABSTAIN WAS

IN VIOLATION OF HIS INSTRUCTIONS FROM RAMGOOLAM. ACCORDING TO THE SAME SOURCE, RAMPHUL HAS BEEN FEEDING SCURRILOUS REPORTS TO RAMGOOLAM TO THE EFFECT THAT THE USG IS INDULGING IN SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES AGAINST RAMGOOLAM AND HIS ADMINISTRATION IN MAURITIUS. THUS AS MY SOURCE PUT IT RAMPHUL HAS BECOME AN "EVIL INFLUENCE" ON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. WHILE THIS ALLEGATION MAY BE TRUE, I HAVE NO PROOF OF IT.

3. INSTEAD OF TRYING TO PUSH RAMGOOLAM TO DUMP RAMPHUL SIMPLY TO SATISFY US, AT THIS STAGE I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR ME TO QUERY RAMGOOLAM QUIETLY ABOUT HIS OWN FRUSTRATIONS AND UNHAPPINESS WITH RAMPHUL AND TRY TO FIND OUT IF RAMGOOLAM IS GETTING READY FOR HIS OWN REASONS TO MOVERAMPHUL FROM NEW YORK TO LONDON OR ELSEWHERE (PORT LOUIS 843, PARA 2 PERTAINS). WHATEVER HAPPENS, RAMGOOLAM ALONE WILL MAKE THE DECISION AND I WILL TRY TO SOUND HIM OUT DISCREETLY SOON AFTER HIS RETURN NOW EXPECTED NEXT WEEKEND. MEANWHILE I PLAN TO ASK UK HIGH COMMISSIONER BRIND IF HE HAS RECEIVED ANY ECHOES FROM LONDON RELATING TO HINTS FROM BRITISH IN NEW YORK MENTIONED PARA 4 USUN 349.

4. ASSUMING DEPARTMENT HAS NO OBJECTION TO MY PROCEEDING AS OUTLINED ABOVE, I SUGGEST WE HOLD ANY MOVE TO MAKE JOINT APPROACH WITH UK IN ABEYANCE UNTIL I HAVE HAD CHANCE TO TAKE SOUNDING WITH RAMGOOLAM, HOPEFULLY NEXT WEEK.
MANHARD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, MEETING VOTING RECORDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PORTL00155
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760062-0025
From: PORT LOUIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760234/aaaabdvz.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 76 STATE 37479, 76 PORT LOUIS 843
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <07 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAURITIAN UN PERM REP
TAGS: PFOR, WA, MP, SF, AO, UNSC, (RAMGOOLAM, SEEWOOSAGUR), (RAMPHUL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006